



THE COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS

Whereas, According to the 2016 Dear Colleague Letter from the United States Department of Education and United States Department of Justice, “A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so. A school may, however, make individual-user options available to all students who voluntarily seek additional privacy,”¹ and the 2013 California School Success and Opportunity Act “requires that a [K-12] pupil be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs, activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with [their] gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil’s records”²; and

Whereas, College of the Canyons currently only has four gender inclusive restrooms at the Valencia campus, which are either not open during all instructional hours or are located away from buildings with large numbers of students and employees, as well as other restrooms identified as “unisex” which are, in fact, employee-only designated and/or require a key to access and zero gender inclusive restrooms at the Canyon Country campus; and

Whereas, that the College of the Canyons Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees in resolutions have committed to the principles of:^{3,4}

- Creating a welcoming environment, whose doors are open to all regardless of economic standing, age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, immigration status, disability, or other actual or perceived categories of difference;
- Standing in defense of our most vulnerable students and fellow employees, including but not limited to people of color, LGBTQA+ people, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations;

¹ 2016 Dear Colleague Letter from the United States Department of Education and United States Department of Justice <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf>

² 2013 California School Success and Opportunity Act <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/eo/fags.asp>

³ College of the Canyons Academic Senate Resolution In Support of Students in Uncertain Political Times, April 20, 2017 <https://www.canyons.edu/resources/documents/administration/academicsenate/ResolutioninSupportofStudentsinUncertainPoliticalTimes.pdf>

⁴ Santa Clarita Community College District Board of Trustees, Resolution No. 2016/17-19 Commitment to Creating a Welcoming Campus Environment Where All Students Feel Valued <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/coc/Board.nsf/Public#>

- Equity, social justice, inclusion, diversity, unity, open discussion, and success for all students;

Whereas, In the Journal of College and University Law (2014) it is observed that “the most common daily difficulty for a transgender student on campus is restroom usage...[t]hese students frequently face discomfort and sometimes harassment no matter which restroom they choose – the one matching their birth sex or the one corresponding to their gender identity... [m]any trans students choose to avoid sex-specified restrooms, including foregoing using any restroom, to avoid these difficulties”⁵;

Resolved, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate strongly urges the District to take immediate steps to provide gender inclusive restroom facilities that are accessible at all hours during which instruction occurs and in high occupancy areas for both campuses; and

Resolved, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate collaborate with their local administrations, governing boards, and other stakeholders to create and make accessible maps of gender-inclusive restrooms with signage that indicates gender-inclusivity; and

Resolved, That the College of the Canyons Academic Senate strongly urges the District to include gender inclusive restroom facilities in all new construction plans effective immediately.

Adopted by Academic Senate on February 20, 2020

⁵ Perdue, Troy J. (2014). Trans* Issues for Colleges and Universities: Records, Housing, Restrooms, Locker Rooms, and Athletics. Journal of College and University Law, 41(1), 45- 70 https://cdn.atixa.org/website-media/o_atixa/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/18121710/TOP-5-TRANS-ISSUES-FOR-COLLEGES-AND-UNIVERSITIES-RECORDS-HOUSING-BATHROOMS-LOCKER-ROOMS-AND-ATHLETICS.pdf